

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting

December 15, 2021 - 05:00 PM

Online Meeting

Members present: Hannah Bohn-Jenkins*, Max Dalton, Meron Demissie, Mark Dhennin, Tess Dornfeld, Sandy Fazeli, Lauren Fleming, Maddie Henderson, LesLee Jackson, Anna Johnson, Toya Lopez, Barbara Lunde, Nicholas Minderman, Erin Niehoff, Suzanne Savanick Hansen, Jaqueline Zepeda (Quorum - 10)

Members not present: Indigo Davitt- Liu, Divine Islam, Mathew Douglas-May

*Hannah Bohn changed her name to Hannah Jenkins

Staff: Kim Havey, Luke Hollenkamp, Stacy Miller

Guests: Joseph Dammel, Fresh Energy; Audrey Partridge Center for Energy and Environment; Trevor Drake, Great Plains Institute; Mauricio Leon, Metropolitan Council; Sean Gosiewski, Resilient Communities

Call to Order

1. Roll Call.

16 members present

2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Acceptance of minutes

[November 17, 2021 Community Environmental Advisory Commission](#)

Max Dalton moved to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes from November 2021. Sandy Fazeli seconded Kim called roll. Approval was unanimous.

Consent

Location: Online Meeting, Dial-In Number: 612-276-6670 Phone Conference ID: 431 068 948#

Erin read the Land Acknowledgement: As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, it is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous people in our community.

Sean Gosiewski shared that there are multiple Native American Agency budgets under consideration.

Presentations:

[G-21 Report](#) Presentation -- Joe Dammel, Trevor Drake, Audrey Partridge

Joseph Dammel of Fresh Energy presented that nearly every house and building in Minneapolis and Saint Paul has gas service and about the health impacts of burning fossil gas in our homes where we spend 94% of our time.

- Spending on gas over the last 10-15 years is ~\$15 billion per year with CenterPoint spending \$65 million per year to fix pipes, replace meters, keep the system safe and reliable.
- CenterPoint projects spending in 2023-2024 to be closer to \$300 million
- Winter storm Uri underscores volatility of fuel supplies and costs that create risk for households.
- Fresh Energy is working on the best ways to influence the Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA) plans to incorporate better planning, reconsider the expansion of the gas system so it's easier to transition away from it in the future, create resource options, and lead an equity-centered campaign to bring people into the PUC's process over the next few years.

Audrey Partridge of Center for Energy and Environment presented that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that the planet is over 1 degree Celsius warmer already due to human activity and this will increase over time.

- We only have 20-30 years to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions which means every sector has to be addressed.

Trevor Drake of Great Plains Institute described the process leading up to the NGIA, including 15 full day stakeholder meetings to build everyone's understanding of issues.

- The high decarbonized gas scenario primarily heats buildings using decarbonized gas fuel.
- The high electrification primarily relies on electric heat pumps using electric resistance backup for the coldest hours of the year.
- In terms of costs, the high decarbonized gas scenario is the most expensive and more expensive than high electrification.

Q: What can the city do? Paying attention to equity and thinking about it.

A: The City of Minneapolis is working to help advance electrification and advocacy at the PUC is important. The G21 report process informed a lot of our Clean Energy Partnership activities. The modeling has been helpful, and city policymakers have a strong preference to pursue the high electrification path and planning for what electrification measures we can start to use right away, like transitioning from gas to electric stoves for example. We're also beginning incentive programs and education programs.

Q: Do we have a plan for recycling the gas appliances that we discard?

A: The county offers some programs for recycling them.

Q: Have you considered the embodied carbon when transitioning from gas to electric?

A: We didn't look at embodied emissions but there may be a conversation in the greenhouse gas emissions in the docket. We will look at the fuel cycle, however. We have done some work on industrial sector manufacturing related to this question.

Joe noted that the Commission welcomes broad viewpoints to surface issues that might not be part of current plans. Comments are open into February on Docket 21-565. Consider participating in the public comment process. Contact Fresh Energy if you'd like.

Q: Is there any analysis on American products versus ones made in other countries that may cause security issues?

A: We didn't look at this for our model but there are also supply chain constraints as well.

Q: What should it feel/look like- how many buildings per year do we need to upgrade in Minneapolis and the State and how fast do we need to be going?

A: Efficiency should always be prioritized. It can be a tool for under-resourced communities to decrease the energy burden. It should happen rapidly and strategically. For example, when there's a neighborhood that's overdue for a system upgrade, think of targeting that neighborhood for electrification. Deploy heat pumps and other electric appliances.

Q: Are you including interim goals between now and 2050?

A: Yes, our analysis was done assuming steady progress over time.

Met Council Climate Action Scenario Planning Tool – Mauricio Leon, Metropolitan Council

Mauricio showed a video introducing Met Council's new greenhouse gas emissions tool and explaining how human activities have led to droughts, stronger storms, how MN's average temperatures have risen, etc.

- The Met Council provides technical assistance to local governments on climate change with custom strategies for MN cities to reduce emissions. For example, denser development reduces the need to travel long distances; electric cars replace combustion gas engines; road use pricing; renewable energy; urban forestation.
- The Climate Action Scenario Planning Tool is a web application with emissions data from transportation, building energy, wastewater, etc. and calculates the impact of different mitigation strategies over the next 20 years.
- We can use public awareness campaigns, provide pricing, incentives, and more.
- The tool includes three interdependent modules: building energy, transportation, and green infrastructure.
- Why did we develop this tool? To enable science-based decisions about how to reduce emissions, optimize costs and benefits, explore multiple scenarios based on goals and values. Some solutions the tool considers include tree planting, grid decarbonization, renewable natural gas, behavioral strategies, road pricing, remote telework, promoting EVs, heat electrification, improving new home and building efficiency, smart grid, land use changes.
- Minneapolis can benefit from the tool by exploring scenarios for decarbonization.
- We welcome your feedback and may expand the tool features.

Q: What strategies is Met Council using for transportation? What are you doing about city buses? Will they be electrified? What will you do with the standard diesel buses?

A: We'd like to have a conversation about a regional climate action plan, but in the near term, Minneapolis is advocating with Metro Transit for more 40-foot electric buses.

Q: What data do cities need to provide? What public engagement will be happening?

A: Cities don't need to bring additional data; it's provided by the tool since we have the key data already. This is a service we are providing to communities to do scenario planning. We don't know yet when stakeholder engagement will take place.

Discussion:

Meeting dates for 2022 – results of Doodle Poll – Third Tuesday of the month from 5-7 is the consensus. Outlook invites will be sent out before the end of the year.

- The next meeting is on January 25th and planning to talking about the mobility hubs for electric bikes and scooters. City Council extended the emergency pandemic through February 17th.

Update on Climate Action and Equity Plan Update

- The Climate Action and Equity Plan consultant team has been selected; it's a local team but we can't give specific names until we execute the agreement.
- We will develop a work plan, including some community meetings, and looking for 10-12 people to participate in an advisory group and may bring this forward to CEAC in early February.

Next steps on science based GHG targets

- Kim reported that Sustainability's plan is to introduce the recommendations from the November CEAC meeting during the new Council Member orientation on December 20th to invite the engagement of the new City Council.

2022 chair and vice chair nominations in January with voting in February

- Erin noted that per the bylaws, elections will be held for chair and vice chair. There will be nominations at the January meeting. Erin has been the chair for the last four years and will not run again.

Updates and Announcements from Commissioners and Staff

- All City boards and commissions will likely continue to meet virtually until a decision is made by the Mayor or new incoming Council.
- The City approved a new [Enterprise Sustainable Building Policy](#) at the November 19th City Council meeting.
- Kim will be out of the office on vacation from December 29th – January 17th. During that time communications should be directed to sustainability@minneapolismn.gov.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:01.

Notice:

A portion of this meeting may be closed to the public pursuant to MN Statutes Section 13D.03 or 13D.05.

Next Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting: January 25, 2022 from 5-7 PM

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-2563 or e-mail sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.